NOC from Neyveli Lignite Corporation

†3206. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory to obtain N.O.C. from Neyveli Lignite Corporation for allotment of lignite block in Rajasthan; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that allotment of Raneri lignite block to R.S.M.M. a State Government undertaking, has been cancelled by Union Government on the suggestions of Neyveli Lignite Corporation; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. Under the revised coal mining policy circulated *vide* Ministry of Coal letter dated 12.12.2001, a State Government company or undertaking is required to obtain a certificate from Coal India Limited (CIL) or Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC), as the case may be, to the effect that CIL or NLC has no plan or willingness to undertake mining operation in the concerned coal/lignite block.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has, due to techno-economic reasons, cancelled allocation of Raneri lignite block to RSMML. However, in lieu of Raneri block, RSMML has been allocated Gurha (West) lignite block, which has a greater potential of lignite compared of Raneri.

Coal import

3207. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of coal imported during the year 2003-04 and 2004-05; and

(b) the steps taken to increase the coal mining in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The quantum of coal imported during the year 2003-04 and 2004-05 (Provisional) is 21.68 million tonnes and 26.13 million tonnes respectively.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.